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Serial No.: 10/829,034  
Attorney Docket No.: 506417.0817

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Inventor	:	Gary W. Gage
Serial No.	:	10/829,034
Filing Date	:	April 21, 2004
Title	:	EXPANSION RING FOR MASS TRANSFER COLUMN AND METHOD EMPLOYING SAME
Group/Art Unit	:	3749
Examiner	:	Charles S. Bushey
Confirmation No.	:	7432
Atty. Docket No.	:	506417.0817

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and § 1.97(b), the references listed below and on the attached Form PTO/SB/08A (Substitute for Form 1449A-B/PTO) are being brought to the attention of the Examiner for consideration in connection with the examination of the above-identified patent application. Only a copy of the foreign cited document is enclosed.

Submission of these references is not an admission that the references constitute prior art.

**Certificate of Mailing Under 37 C.F.R. 1.8**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on:

Date: 11-22-04

Signature: Michele G. Illsperger

Printed Name: Michele G. Illsperger

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any additional amount required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-4409.

**U.S. PATENTS**

<b>Patent No.</b>	<b>Inventor(s)</b>	<b>Issue Date</b>
5,547,617	Lee et al.	08-20-1996
4,369,150	Harper	01-18-1983
2,889,018	Swan	06-02-1959
2,807,451	Kuhni et al.	09-24-1957

**FOREIGN PATENTS**

<b>Country</b>	<b>Patent No./Publication No.</b>	<b>Publication Date</b>
France	2,485,143	12-24-1981

This reference relates to a device for sealing the junction between a tray in a column and the inner wall of the column, whereby a seal made of a deformable material is disposed in an L-shaped metallic ring 1 having an outlet. The outer diameter of the metallic ring 1 is greater than the inner diameter of the column, so that when compressed the metallic ring abuts against the inner wall.

**OTHER REFERENCES**

None.

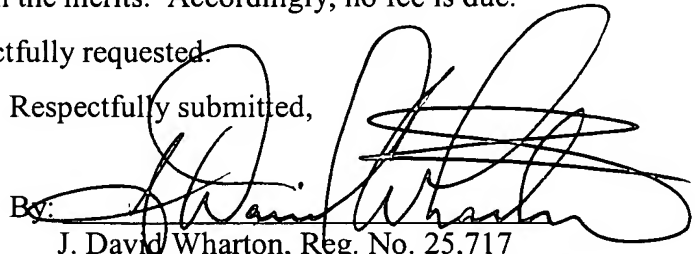
Applicant respectfully requests that these references be made of record in the above-identified application and considered by the Examiner during prosecution of the application.

It is respectfully submitted that the present invention as claimed is patentable over the listed references.

This information disclosure statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under § 1.53(d). and before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits. Accordingly, no fee is due.

Acknowledgment of receipt is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By:   
J. David Wharton, Reg. No. 25,717  
STINSON MORRISON HECKER LLP  
1201 Walnut Ste 2800  
Kansas City MO 64106-2150  
Telephone: (816) 842-8600  
Facsimile: (816) 691-3495



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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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<div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Substitute for Form 1449A/PTO</p> <p><b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b></p> <p><i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i></p> </div>				<b>Complete if Known</b>	
				Application Number:	10/829,034
				Filing Date:	April 21, 2004
				First Named Inventor:	Gage
				Group Art Unit:	3749
				Examiner Name:	Charles S. Bushéy
				Attorney Docket Number:	506417.0817
Sheet	1	of	1		

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Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup>Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup> See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

**Burden Hour Statement:** This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. **DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO:** Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.